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Nine readers out of ten will be attracted to Mr. Strachey's book by the glimpses contained in it of royalty at close range, and by the interesting story of the greatest queen of modern times, or indeed of any times, seen with all her limitations, and littlenesses, as well as with her prestige, her wealth, her glory and her happiness. But the tenth reader will find much more than story-book interest in Mr. Strachey's pages. He will see the working out of opposing forces which resulted in the development of the British Constitution.

Queen Victoria's reign was a formative period for British democracy. When she came to the throne one great step had been taken in the Reform Act of 1832; but the whole government was still aristocratic. The king had lost power, but the people had not yet gained it. In Prince Albert and his adviser Baron Stockmar there came into the struggle two able and persistent men who were determined that the crown should be reinvested with real authority, and for over twenty years there was going on—almost unknown to the nation—this constant trial of strength between sovereign and ministers. Albert was never popular in England; but it is safe to say that his unpopularity would have been enormously increased had the people at large realized what he was trying to do to their country.

Mr. Strachey makes it appear almost an accident that the Prince did not succeed; but he acknowledges that Albert neither understood nor liked British methods and the British spirit. The German prince wanted a machine. He had to deal with a living organism, and the same mistake that was made by the Germans at the beginning of the Great War, was made by Albert when he failed to realize that there is a force in living matter that can subdue the most perfect of mechanisms. How much this living force of British institutions had to encounter during the years of Prince Albert's activity is exceedingly well told in Mr. Strachey's pages, in spite of the fact that he adds very little new material to what was already available in biographies or histories.

A. G. PORRITT.

Hartford, Conn.

Men and Manner in Parliament. By Sir HENRY LUCY. (New York: E. P. Dutton and Company. 1921. Pp. 259.)

Among the many good scribes who have sat in the press gallery of the House of Commons few have achieved greater renown for intelligent reporting than the veteran journalist Sir Henry Lucy. Mr. Lucy began

his work at St. Stephen's about fifty years ago and continued to discuss the doings of Parliament till his retirement in 1916. Soon after the election of 1874 he prepared a series of articles for the *Gentleman's Magazine* in which he recorded his impressions of the British legislature in a genial and somewhat unconventional manner. The articles were widely read and were published later in book form under the title *Men and Manner in Parliament*. Mr. Lucy points out and described the orators and the talkers, the party leaders and the independent members, the Irish and those who sat in silence. In his closing chapter he has something to say about those who did not survive the election. In all about two hundred men are passed in review and their strong and weak points, their eccentricities, and their behavior on the floor of the house are indicated and discussed in a manner that seems to be quite free from partisanship.

During the past year the work has been republished, but so far as the reviewer is able to determine Mr. Lucy has revised neither his text nor his critical estimates. Students of history who are interested in the great parliamentary battles of the seventies will find Mr. Lucy's papers both entertaining and informing. For the political scientist the work has little value except as it illustrates the daily routine of the House of Commons.

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Great Britain in the Latest Age. From Laisser Faire to State Control. By A. S. TUBERVILLE and F. A. HOWE. (New York: E. P. Dutton and Company. 1921. Pp. 342.)

This book has its origin in a series of lectures delivered by the authors to British troops in Germany in 1919 under the army education scheme. Because of the interest in recent and contemporary history these lectures form the basis of the book, designed as it is for use in classes in adult education as well as in secondary and continuation schools. The aim is to provide "a brief introduction to the study of the general, and not solely the political, history of Great Britain in the Latest Age" (broadly, the nineteenth century).

There are obvious difficulties in presenting in a single volume to readers with no great historical background the significant developments of the last century. The authors have adopted a combination of methods to assist them over these difficulties. The first three chapters are en-